

is therefore thought to be somewhat remarkable, and may be explained if we suppose the family to have been natives of some other country, and that they had recently settled in England. The reasons for this last supposition will be stated hereafter.

The pronunciation of the name Lomas four centuries ago was probably well represented by the spelling Lomatz. Subsequently one branch of the family adopted the spelling Lomax and another the spelling Lomas, and these two modes of spelling have been pretty consistently adhered to in England down to the present time.

It is the common impression in England that the names Lomax and Lomas have the same origin. A surgeon of some eminence residing in Manchester, Eng., married a Miss Lomas. I visited the family in 1857, and was told that the lady's grandfather was named Lomax, but that her father (believing that the name was originally Lomas) adopted the spelling Lomas.

The change of the name Lomatz to Lomax and Lomas is no greater than the changes which have taken place in many other English names whose history can be traced back several centuries. We have an example of the facility with which the letter *x* is exchanged for the letter *s* or soft *c*, in the word *index*, whose plural is either *indexes* or *indices*.

*The Lomax coat of arms.*—Lawrent Lomax of Lancaster Co. was authorized to bear a coat of arms sometime prior to the year 1561. In the reign of Philip and Mary (A. D. 1554), a commission of visitation was appointed to regulate the use and assumption of arms, and several similar commissions were subsequently issued under the reign of Elizabeth and her successors. At the Visitation of 1561, Lawrent Lomax of Eye, in Suffolk County, was recorded as having a coat of arms. This record is found in a manuscript volume contained in the British Museum, entitled "Pedigrees and Arms of Suffolk Families," Harleian Collection of Manuscripts, No. 1449. On page 110b of this manuscript is found a record of Laurent Lomax (born in Lancaster), with the names of his descendants (including children, grandchildren and great grandchildren), and his coat of arms is represented by a figure in the margin.

The following is a copy of this record: